



SPECIAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM EDITION INSIDE

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

# Bible Drill, Speaker champions chosen

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

For the second consecutive year, one church has produced the Mississippi Baptist Bible Drill champion — and one family in that church has produced both winners.

Courtney Ferguson, member of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, took the 2006 Senior High Bible Drill crown at the Selection Tournament on April 8 at First Church, Clinton, during an intense, day-long competition among the best Bible drillers in the state. Her brother Chris won the tourney last year.

"The Fergusons are a great family. There are three generations in the church, and they are here all the time. They are hard workers. All of them are fine people," said Oakhurst Church Pastor Jim Collier.

Maggie Gill, member of Slayden Church, Lamar, took second place in the Senior High Bible Drill competition, while Bethany Ellis, member of Courtland Church, Courtland, placed third.

"This was a very strong year for Bible Drills, with good participation," said Don Hicks, Bible Drill consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which sponsors the event. "The Bible knowledge these young people possess is extraordinary, and it's always encouraging to see them using God's Word to grow in their faith."

The annual Speakers Tournament was also held on April 8 at First Church, Clinton. Young participants from across the state gather each year to determine who among them are the top orators on religious subjects. Winners were:

• **First Place:** Carrie Kirk, member of Ridgcrest Church, Madison, with her speech entitled, Take Up Your Cross.



**TOPS IN BIBLE DRILL** — Winners of the Senior High Selection Tournament on April 8 at First Church, Clinton, and the tournament managers, were (from left) Bethany Ellis of Courtland Church, Courtland, third place; Glen Shows, consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry (DFM) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); Courtney Ferguson of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, first place; Marcus Peagler, DFM director; Maggie Gill of Slayden Church, Lamar, second place; and Don Hicks, DFM consultant. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

• **Second Place:** Lauren Hester, member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, with her speech entitled, Worth the Wait.

• **Third Place:** Joshua Y. McCormick, member of Philadelphia Church, Etta, with his speech entitled, Trusting in God.

• **Fourth Place:** Laura Leigh Bingham, member of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, with her speech entitled, Is True Love Worth the Wait?

"The speeches were well-researched and

presented with great enthusiasm. Mississippi Baptists can be proud of these young people and, I believe, secure in the future leadership of the Convention," Hicks said.

Selection Tournament and Speakers Tournament winners are eligible for scholarships offered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention's three affiliated colleges: William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain; and Mississippi College in Clinton.

The Junior High Selection Tournament for younger Bible Drillers was also held at First Church, Clinton, on April 8. Winners of that competition included:

• **First Place:** Molly Stillions, member of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale.

• **Second Place:** Tiffany Dempsey, member of Weir Church, Weir.

• **Third Place:** Rachel Chancellor, member of Hephzibah Church, Shubuta.

Their photo will be published in an upcoming edition of The Baptist Record.

Readers may have noticed that Oakhurst Church placed a member in all three categories of competition on April 8: Senior High Selection Tournament, Junior High Selection Tournament, and Speakers Tournament. That's not an accident, said Pastor Collier.

"Ann Thornton is the Bible Drill overall coordinator for the church. She has a lot of great people who work with her. In January each year, we stop a lot of the other things going on at the church and concentrate on Bible Drill," Collier said. "We have a group of people who are very dedicated to Bible Drill."

The annual Speakers Tournament, Selection Tournament, and Bible Drills around the state are funded by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



**BEST SPEAKERS** — Winners at the Mississippi Baptist Speakers Tournament on April 8 at First Church, Clinton, included (from left) Laura Leigh Bingham, member of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, fourth place; Joshua T. McCormick, member of Philadelphia Church, Etta, third place; Lauren Hester, member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, second place; and Carrie Kirk, member of Ridgcrest Church, Madison, first place. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Reccord out as NAMB president

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Bob Reccord resigned April 17 as president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Reccord was the focus of a special March 23 trustee meeting in which a 19-page report by a trustee task force was discussed. The report dealt in large measure with various issues related to Reccord's leadership of the mission board.

The report can be downloaded at [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net).

Among the concerns of the trustee report was the outsourcing of media work without a bidding process to a firm owned by a friend of Reccord, and that Reccord had "underdeveloped his relationships" with state Baptist conventions and their executive leadership.



Reccord

SINCE 1877

20, 2006

VOL. 129

No. 16

APR 26 2006

130:16  
m5



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H. Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Tony Martin  
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Matt Broome  
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING  
Dana Richardson  
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Brenda Quattlebaum  
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS  
Don McGregor

**Baptist Record Advisory Committee:**  
Mack Amis, McComb  
James Beasley, Crystal Springs  
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis  
Rick Henson, Brandon  
Beverly Pyron, Natchez  
Billy Watkins, Madison  
Dana Richardson, secretary

**Postmaster:**  
Send changes of address to: The  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and  
address changes to: The Editor,  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800  
Fax: (601) 292-3330  
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 16  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.  
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.  
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.  
Deadlines: News items — one calendar  
week prior to requested publication date.  
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to  
requested publication date. All submissions  
are subject to editing.

The signs are all around us. "Gulf Coast braces for hurricane season," report the newspaper headlines. Television news stories focus on prognostications from the National Hurricane Center in Miami on the 2006 hurricane season, and whether we are on the upward swing of hurricane activity that could last for decades. The nation in general has moved on to other pressing business that cries out to be addressed.

For some time now, Katrina seems to have begun to fade from our collective consciousness — much too soon and with much work yet to do. News media attention has turned to the upcoming New Orleans mayoral election. There are so many crises *de jour*, both national and international. A new hurricane season is indeed bearing down on us. There are the constant demands on our personal and work time. Students need parents' help to cram for final exams. Summer vacations are just around the corner. There are so many things to juggle, so many causes to tackle.

It's easy to put aside thoughts of the devastation wrought by Katrina — even the job of clearing the debris is still far from over, eight long months later — with a promise to ourselves to return to the subject at a more convenient time. It's easy to shelve any action plans, too, for the same reasons.

Katrina has not left the minds of the victims along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, however. While we go about our daily lives and occasionally dart to the Coast

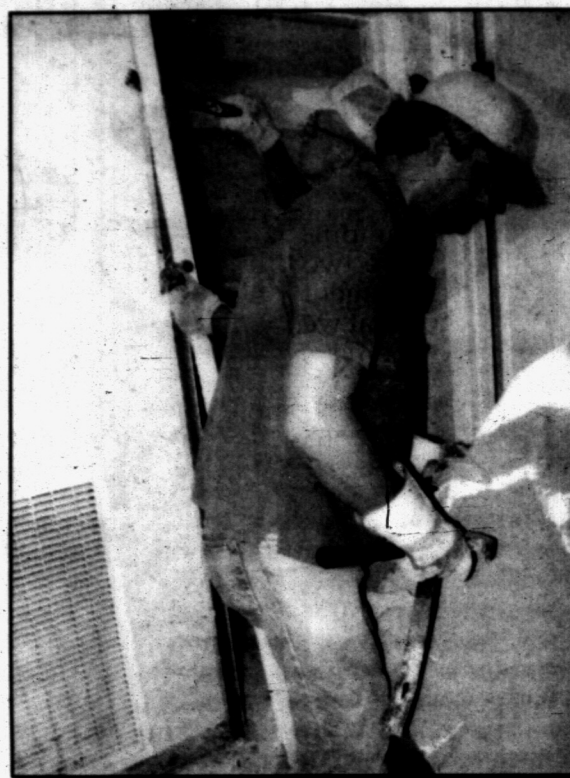
Since assuming the role of director of the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, I have been diligently learning what I am supposed to do. In analyzing calendars, budget proposals, and lists of events scheduled, I came across the topic, Life Commitment Sunday. I asked those in my department when we last promoted this event. No one could remember. I asked someone in The Baptist Record if there would be interest in an article to promote the event. The response was "What is it?"

It seems to me the time has come to revisit Life Commitment Sunday as an emphasis we cannot afford to ignore.

Life Commitment Sunday is April 23. How should we observe this day? A few reminders will guide us. God calls all of us to salvation and, as a result, to a life of commitment to Him. On the basis of our call to salvation, God calls all of us into Christian service. He blesses us with a variety of spiritual gifts. He places us in the contexts of a family, a church, a neighborhood, and a work environment. He expects us to honor Him with our lives by ministering to the needs of other people in all of these arenas.

To accomplish His work in the world, God calls some individuals to a ministry of vocational service. When I was younger, this was called "full-time" Christian service. The term full-time is inadequate,

## Katrina who?



**TOUGH JOB** — Members of the Calhoun Association Disaster Relief Team take on the difficult and dirty task of "mud out" last summer inside the home of a Hurricane Katrina victim. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

for a quick mission endeavor, the storm's survivors can't forget so easily. They continue to need our help in a major way. The recovery will take years, if not decades, to complete. That is, if "complete" is even the right word to use in the context of what has happened to the Gulf Coast.

There is still plenty to be done, and Katrina victims along our own Coast are crying out not to be forgotten.

Now is crunch time. Are Mississippi Baptists, who did so much and gave so much to the Katrina relief effort, prepared to run this marathon? Will our determination be as great as in the days immediately after the hurricane? Will we wane in the coming days and months and years?

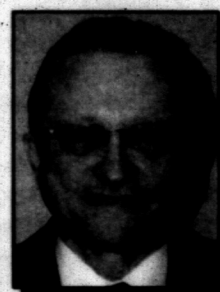
A special telephone number and e-mail address have been established for Mississippi Baptists interested in volunteering for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. The telephone hotline number is (601) 292-3206. The e-mail address is mbcdbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org. If offering assistance via e-mail, please include full name and a return telephone number, so that you may be contacted directly regarding details.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board continues to accept donations to fund both the immediate needs and the long-term Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts along the Gulf Coast and throughout the state. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Fully 100% of the donations will be used directly for hurricane relief. More information on how to contribute can be obtained by calling (601) 292-3206, or e-mailing mbcdbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org.

May we not forsake our brothers and sisters in their hour of need. Surely God's heart continues to bleed for them — and that should be motivation enough for us to stay the course. Let's get busy.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Life commitment is still important

By Alan Woodward, director  
Pastor/Leadership Development  
Miss. Baptist Convention Board

however, for at least two reasons. First, all Christians should be full-time in terms of their witness, character, and availability to represent Jesus Christ wherever they are and whatever they are doing. Secondly, a large percentage of our churches are led by bivocational ministers who have a leadership role in the church and also a full-time secular job. Approximately 850 Mississippi churches have bivocational pastors. Many of these churches would lack pastoral leadership without the ministry of these servants of God.

Life Commitment Sunday traditionally has been a day to focus attention on the calling to vocational ministry. God calls people to serve Him vocationally in a variety of ways: pastors, ministers of music, ministers of education, ministers of youth, missionaries, and in a lot of other ways. Periodically, God's people need reminding that God sets apart individuals to lead in strategic ways through vocational service. Christians need

this reminder so as to be open to God's leadership in their lives. God could call any of us to vocational ministry. Moreover, this special day can serve to encourage believers to rightly respect these whom God has called into vocational ministry.

Ministers are not hired hands, as if the church can make leadership changes at the whim of a select few members — regardless of their giving record or family history in the church. Instead, God calls people into vocational ministry to lead the way in accomplishing His work. Ministers are not necessarily better than lay members of the church, but their role is different. Pastors, for example, are to prayerfully discern God's direction for the church's ministry, encourage members to embrace that direction, and equip them to do so.

Every year a significant number of vocational ministers are lost for service. Some cannot continue to serve because of health issues. Some have

retired. Some have gone through such stress and difficulty in ministry that they feel they no longer can serve effectively. In some cases, ministry fatigue has been overwhelming because of the real and perceived demands of ministry. In other cases, a few church members seem bent on controlling the church and not allowing God's chosen leaders to lead as He desires them to do so. Still others have been called home to heaven. Every year churches face the need for new leadership. We would do well to revisit the critical need for all of us to be surrendered to the leadership of Christ. Jesus said, "The harvest is abundant but the workers are few" (Luke 10:2).

Life Commitment Sunday is a wonderful occasion to "pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." That means we will seek our place of service and get busy. That means we will pray for God to send His servants to lead our churches. That also means we need to be open to the reality that God could use any of us in vocational ministry.

Periodically, individuals sense God's call into ministry. What should they do? They certainly should use the powerful tools of the Bible: prayer and spiritual counsel. In addition, other resources can be helpful, such as *Confirming the Pastoral Call* by Joseph L. Umidi; *Called to Serve* by Joe R. Stacker; and *God's Call* by Neil Knierim and Yvonne Burrage.



# So. Baptist scholars: gospel of Judas heresy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The gospel of Judas is helpful in understanding early church heresy but should be viewed as false writings and not comparable to the biblical Gospels, conservative scholars say.

A group of scholars and translators announced in early April the document's discovery, disclosing the find just before a special about the manuscript aired on the National Geographic Channel. National Geographic billed it as a "lost gospel."

Christians long have known about the gospel of Judas and considered it heretical even though they didn't have an entire copy. Much of what previously was known came from early church father Irenaeus, a hero of church history who was bishop of Lyons and lived in the second century. He wrote a work titled, *Against Heresies*, in which he called the gospel of Judas "fictitious history."

The newly discovered document was dated to around A.D. 300, although it likely is a copy of an earlier manuscript, scholars said.

Unlike the New Testament Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the authorship of Judas is not tied to the name it bears. Also, unlike the biblical Gospels, Judas promotes an early heresy known as Gnosticism, a movement that tried to corrupt the teachings of Christ in the early church.

In summary, the gospel of Judas makes Judas a hero, and not a traitor. Orthodox scholars say the gospel of Judas is not Christian at all, but simply heresy.

"The finding of the manuscript is important because we

now have a manuscript that we didn't have for 1,700 years, but this manuscript will not change what Christians believe," James M. Hamilton Jr., assistant professor of biblical studies at Southwestern Theological Seminary's Houston campus, told Baptist Press. "I have two volumes of 'New Testament Apocrypha' on my shelf that we have had for a long time now, and the fact is that only scholars read this stuff. The canon has long been decided, and the discovery of a Gnostic book is not going to re-open the question."

The discovery of the gospel of Judas should lead believers to "praise God for preserving the books of the Bible he wanted us to have," Hamilton said.

In fact, the gospel of Judas isn't the only surviving early manuscript that wasn't included in the New Testament. There are other Gnostic documents, as well as some documents written by early church fathers, that survived. Chief among the orthodox documents is 1 Clement, written by Clement the bishop of Rome, possibly in the first century.

None of the "extra" documents rises to the level of Scripture, orthodox scholars say. The 27 books of the New Testament were recognized as Scripture by the early church primarily because of their association with an apostle. The only books not written by an apostle are Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews, and Jude.

Luke and Acts were written by Luke, who was associated closely with the Apostle Paul. Mark had close ties to Peter, and Jude was the brother of the Apostle James and possibly a

half brother of Jesus. Although it is not known who wrote Hebrews — some have thought it was Paul — it was accepted as Scripture by the early church based on its internal qualities and obvious divine inspiration.

"Archeological finds of the last century have only confirmed that the early church fathers gave us accurate accounts of false teachers," said Alan Branch, vice president for student development at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. "The gospel of Judas is typical of other Gnostic gospels written during the second and third century. As [the early church father] Origen said, 'The church has four Gospels. Heretics have very many.'"

"The church has never denied or attempted to cover up the fact that other groups circulated fallacious gospels. The Gnostic gospels are second and third-century forgeries.

Pagan thought hijacked Christian terminology and used the name 'Jesus' as a vehicle for a pagan worldview."

Gnosticism was a heretical teaching that salvation came through a secret knowledge. Supposedly, Judas was a transmitter of that knowledge. According to Gnosticism, matter was evil and was created by the Old Testament God, who also was evil. Spirit, though, was good. In the gospel of Judas, Jesus tells Judas, referring to the other apostles, "But you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me." The "clothes" reference presumably referred to Jesus' body.

"Theologically, the gospel of Judas is a false gospel representative of the Gnostic tradition," said Malcolm Yarnell III, associate professor of systematic theology at Southwestern Seminary. "... Christ's bodily resurrection is also denied. Christianity has had heresies or false gospels with us since the apostles began preaching.

"This is why Paul warned Christians to utterly reject false gospels in Galatians 1. The false gospel of Judas is an interesting historical find, but should not be placed on the same level as Scripture."

Likewise, Michael D. McMullen, associate professor of church history at Midwestern Seminary, believes the gospel of Judas has value for learning about heresy.

"[I]t reminds us that the early church was built on Scripture, and that heretics like the Gnostics were a real threat to the Gospel ... and that present-day heretics will continue to use such a document to attack the very same inerrant Scriptures that God has given," McMullen said, "but the real truth is that Gnostic ideas will forever remain at an infinite distance from the truth of the biblical Gospel."

## THE BAPTIST Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

APRIL 20, 2006

VOL. 130

NO. 16

### 'Gay history' highlighted

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP) — A bill that would require California public school textbooks to include "gay history" is making its way through the state legislature, and experts warn it could have an impact nationwide. The bill, SB 1437, passed a state Senate committee April 4 by a vote of three to one, and is expected to be debated in the full body in the coming days. It would require textbooks to include "the contributions of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender to the total development of California and the United States." The bill also changes state law to prohibit teachers from saying anything "adversely" about homosexuality. That in of itself could change the way schools teach about the natural family (mom, dad, and children). The bill specifically is aimed at the social sciences which includes history, but presumably could have an even wider reach. "It's blatantly one-sided and would portray homosexuality, through curriculum in the schools, as mainstream," Lynne Fishel, spokesperson for the California Family Council, told Baptist Press. "It would end any open discussion about the issue of homosexuality in the public classroom. The fear among conservatives is that if the bill becomes law, it could influence the content of textbooks in other states. California is the nation's largest textbook purchaser. As they say, 'As California goes, so goes the nation.' This bill legitimizes the pro-homosexual viewpoint and negates any traditional views of family. While it's shrouded in an anti-discrimination tolerance bill, it's really discriminatory against people of faith, who would question homosexuality as a behavior. It elevates homosexuals and transgenderers into the category of men, women, blacks, Hispanics, and other culture and ethnic groups ... I wasn't aware that we call out sexual orientation when we're teaching history. That would be very new for our kids."

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

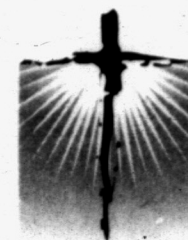
Mississippi pastor Greg Martin of Long Beach is elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors during trustees' Apr. 17 meeting in Alpharetta, Ga.

#### 20 years ago

First Church, Canton, leads the Canton Ministerial Association in giving away 5,000 marked New Testaments to area residents. "This ran across racial and denominational lines," said pastor Louis Smith.

#### 60 years ago

Mississippi WMU issues a plea that "every Mississippi Baptist accept the challenge of building a Young People's Camp. This worthy cause is the imperative MUST of the next three months... we must give at least \$50,000 by July 10."



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE







**YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

*"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.*

#### THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

Years ago the phrase, "Think outside the box," came into vogue in virtually every segment of society. It crossed the lines of business to church, sports, music, car manufacturing, new developments, and toothbrushes. Thinking outside the box was a challenge to try creative and innovative ideas that might be better than the old ways. It was an emphasis on breaking out of traditional thought, institutionalized patterns, and bureaucratic restraints. It was the encouragement to look at things in a new, fresh, and maybe a better way. A lot of good things have come about because people have spent time thinking outside the box, but just for a moment I want to challenge you to **think inside the box**.

The fact is that there are some tried and proven ways of doing things that do not need to be thrown aside or reinvented. Clear thinking would arrive at the doorstep of understanding that many things are done the way they are done because it is the best way to get it done. So far even the most forward thinking, creative, brilliant folks have not improved on the wheel. While some folks may think that air travel has been a monstrous leap beyond the wheel, most of the time getting up into the air and coming back down requires the wheel to be involved.

So there are times that **thinking inside the box** is not a bad thing. In that regard I would just point out to my fellow Mississippi and Southern Baptists that the Cooperative Program now over 80 years old is considered by many people to be inside-the-box thinking, but it has yet to be improved upon. Because many people think that there is a better way of doing missions and supporting the work of the Lord worldwide, they have stopped supporting giving through the Cooperative Program. For many years churches saw a 10% level of their undesignated receipts to missions through the Cooperative Program as a foundation for giving. Many of our



## Directions

*Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*

churches in Mississippi moved to giving 12, 14, 16, some 20%, and beyond. Now the average percentage given across the Southern Baptist Convention is about six percent of the total undesignated receipts. Here in Mississippi, about 9% is given to missions through the Cooperative Program.

In **thinking inside the box**, let me share with you a few important facts that we should all reconsider. The first fact comes from a recent book written about what makes successful businesses work. One of the things that is found in successful businesses is that they find what works and they repeat it. It sounds pretty simple, and it sounds like a great idea. Some businesses have grown from an area to a state to a national entity simply by finding out what works, moving it to another location, and making it work again. Sometimes you can see that practice in coffee sales and at other times in cell phone expansion. During the depths of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt called his cabinet together and, in an effort to lead the nation out of the Depression, told all of the members of his cabinet to try something. If it doesn't work, stop it! If it does work, do a lot more of it!

The Cooperative Program has and does work. It works better than any other mission funding form that has ever been devised. Let me show you how successful the Cooperative Program is in two ways. One, it has allowed us to develop the largest Christian mission force ever sent out into the world to virtually every land. Now we intend to carry the Gospel to every people group, and the Cooperative Program will make that possible. At times a

church or a group of churches begin to focus on some area where they will send mission teams to be involved, and they do a great job. They may forget that when they go, missionaries supported by the Cooperative Program are already on the field and help them have an entryway to do their work. Then after the mission is complete and they return home, the missionaries stay and continue on with the task. Without the Cooperative Program the continuity of the work would not exist.

Another feature that sometimes goes unnoticed about the Cooperative Program is its tremendous strength in the face of adversities. When America was hit with the greatest natural disaster that ever came to our country — Hurricane Katrina, — because of our national strength of giving not only could we respond to try to help people all over the affected areas but not one single missionary was recalled and not one project cancelled because funding was not available from the worldwide mission program. *Is that not amazing?* We need to repeat what is the strength of our relationship in touching a world for Christ.

The second thing I want to encourage you to give some thought to is a negative. In an article about successful business practices, one of the instructions is, don't do stupid things. That is good advice for all of us. We probably all want to do smart things, maybe brilliant things, but sometimes the smartest thing we can do is not do stupid things. I saw a sign the other day that caught my attention and brought a chuckle to my heart. It said, "Good advice about touching power

lines — don't!" In regard to the Cooperative Program, it is important that all of us try to avoid doing stupid things.

A third simple thought comes from an old, worn cliché. It says, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water." Of course, that phrase goes back so far that most kids today have no concept of the fact that water used to be drawn and put into a tub. The baby was washed and then the water was poured out. The truth of the old cliché is still helpful. Don't throw out the baby with the bath water! It is important to love, nurture, and care for the baby. The bath water is not so important. It is passing and did its job. **Chunk it!**

Through the years I have seen pastors, churches, and individuals who for whatever reason would want to throw out everything over one thing. I remember years ago a man came to me and said that he was no longer going to give any money to our church. I asked him, "Why?" He told me he did not agree with something that was in the budget. It was a budget item of \$300 in a budget of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but he was not going to give to anything because he did not like where the \$300 was going to be spent. There was absolutely nothing immoral, unethical, or even unscriptural about the \$300 item, but he just did not like it. As a result, he was going to penalize every other program, every other effort for Kingdom growth, every missionary whether at home or abroad, and on and on because he did not feel good about the \$300 item.

When a church begins to reduce its support to the Cooperative Program, it is reducing its support to every institution, agency, missionary, and cooperative Kingdom work. God bless you and help you to think outside the box but before you totally discard the box, spend a few minutes **thinking inside the box** — and thank God that this box is still strong.

*The author may be contacted at  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-  
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.*

## Three Mississippi colleges in top 5 for student missionary work

The University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi College, and Mississippi State University are among a dozen colleges and universities throughout the nation that the North American Mission Board (NAMB) is honoring for the number of student missionaries mobilized during 2005.

The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg ranked first (Lloyd Lunsford, director), Mississippi College in Clinton ranked fourth (Christy Carley, director), and Mississippi State University in Starkville ranked fifth (Michael Ball, director) in the nation for mobilizing student missionaries to serve in North America.

"We are very proud of the efforts of all our BSU directors in mobilizing college students in missions," said Weaver McCracken, director of the Collegiate Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "Overall, Mississippi Baptist Student Union ranked number one nationally among all state conventions in 2005 in the number of students serving through NAMB Summer Missions."

"The special achievements in 2005 of the Baptist Student Unions at Southern Miss, Mississippi College, and Mississippi State are remarkable," McCracken continued. "BSU in our state has long been committed to the mission of reaching people with the Gospel. Having three of the top five ranked schools nationally last year is evidence of some suc-

cess in achieving this goal. Special thanks to our BSU directors on those campuses."

Under the auspices and direction of NAMB, these institutions are among 119 colleges and universities that mobilized more than 1,700 students in all 50 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico last year. Student mission opportunities are promoted via Baptist Campus Ministries, Baptist colleges and local Baptist churches.

Assigned to sites such as college campuses, beaches, national parks, inner cities, and rural communities, Baptist student missionaries obtained hands-on mission experience while supporting the evangelism and church planting strategies of local Southern Baptist churches and associations.

Students also utilized their personal interests, spiritual gifts, and talents as they led sports camps, worship services in resort settings, Bible studies at children and youth camps, outreach to multi-housing communities and ministry to internationals.

For 2006, more than 2000 college students are needed to share Christ in exciting and creative ways, said Donald King, a manager on NAMB's Missionary Mobilization Team. The deadline to apply is April 20, 2006. For additional information on service opportunities through NAMB, visit [www.answerthecall.net](http://www.answerthecall.net) or call a NAMB mobilization specialist at (800) 462-8657, ext. 6458.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 20, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## Summer Mission Camps for Boys and Girls 2 • 0 • 0 • 6

### Central Hills Baptist Retreat Celebrating Over 25 Years of Ministry

#### SUMMER MISSION CAMPS (grades 3-12)

\$135 per person

10 a.m. Monday - noon Friday

- June 26-30      • July 17-21
- July 10-14     • July 24-28

#### LAD/DAD WEEKEND CAMPS (grades 5K-3 and adult)

\$42.50 per person (\$85 for both)

June 23-24 • July 14-15

3 p.m. Friday - 3 p.m. Saturday

#### CHILDREN'S MISSION CAMPS (COED)

(for boys and girls grades 1-6/one adult chaperone per every seven children)

\$90 per person

June 12-14 — 10 a.m. Monday - noon Wednesday

June 15-17 — 10 a.m. Thursday - noon Saturday

June 19-21 — 10 a.m. Monday - noon Wednesday

#### CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL CAMP FOR BOYS AND GIRLS (grades 3-6/one adult chaperone per every seven children)

\$90 per person

July 6-8

1:30 p.m. Thursday - noon Saturday

#### FOOTBALL CAMP

July 31-August 4

#### Attention All Coaches, Youth Ministers and College Ministries!

The first two weeks in August will be open for retreats, sports camps, and conferences.

For registration forms, please contact  
Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 662-289-9730,  
or go online to [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).



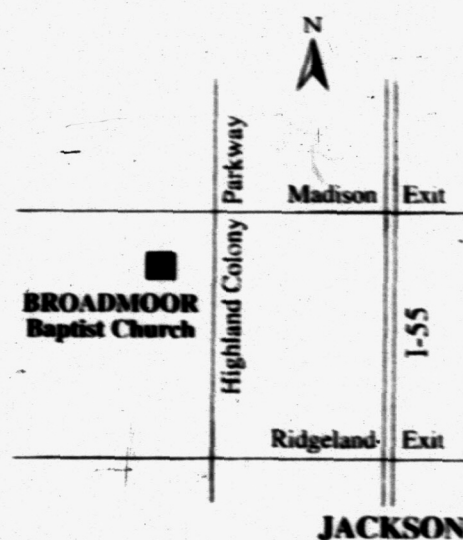
Annual Missions Celebration  
2006

## Live the Call

"As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work." Colossians 1:10 (the Message)

April 28-29, 2006

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison



#### LOCAL MOTELS

Drury Inn & Suites, 601-956-6100

Hampton Inn, 601-956-3611

Mention you are with the MBCB  
Woman's Missionary Union when  
making reservations.

For more info, contact the Miss. WMU  
at 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3324 or  
[kburns@mbcb.org](mailto:kburns@mbcb.org).

## NATIONAL BIVO CELEBRATION

McNeill, Miss.  
May 5-6, 2006

### THEME: "Victory Through the Storms"

- **ACCOMMODATIONS:** Pearl River Baptist Association camp, McNeill, Miss. The phone number is 601.798.2372. (You will need to provide your own pillow and linens.)
    - **COST:** \$5 per person per night
  - **TRAVEL DIRECTIONS:** take the McNeill exit on I-59, go east three miles to a "T" in the road, take a left; go two miles and the camp is on the right.
    - **COST:** \$5 per person per night
  - **TWO CONSTRUCTION TEAMS** are being organized to assist in Katrina related reconstruction (helping one church in Mississippi and one church in Louisiana). If you can help on a team days prior to or after our meeting, contact Ray Guilder at 615.371.7909 or Gary Mitchell at 318.446.3844.
- FOR MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONTACT DALE HOLLOWAY**  
by phone (601.845.2107 or 601.292.3204) or E-mail ([bivoldr@aol.com](mailto:bivoldr@aol.com)).  
Accommodations will be available at the Pearl River Baptist Association camp.



# 2006 PREACHING CONFERENCE

PASTOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

First Baptist Church  
**Vicksburg**  
Monday, April 24

First Baptist Church  
**Starkville**  
Tuesday, April 25

For more info: Call the Pastor/Leadership  
Development Department at 601-292-3305  
or 1-800-748-1651.



Featured Presenter  
**Wayne VanHorn**

## Theme

A Preaching Approach to  
the Deuteronomistic History:  
Deuteronomy, Joshua,  
Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel,  
I & II Kings



**BEN STUART**  
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS



**COLE NESMITH BAND**  
ORLANDO, FLA

**SuperSummer**

JULY 10-14, 2006

## wMu Annual Missions Celebration

...featuring inspiring testimonies from missionaries and others who have followed God's call; powerful worship and teaching; interaction with international and North American missionaries; hands-on-missions projects; leadership development breakout sessions; interactive learning experiences; and much more.

# 2006

June 11-12, 2006  
Greensboro, North Carolina



*Live the Call*

**Explore what it means to understand,  
embrace, and live God's call.**

Sheraton, Greensboro Hotel  
Four Seasons  
3121 High Point Road at 1-40  
Greensboro, North Carolina



Our own Mississippi  
wMu president,  
**DONNA SWARTS**,  
is one of the speakers!

Contact the Mississippi wMu for more info: Contact Kathy Burns by E-mail  
KBurns@mbcb.org, or phone 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3324.

## 2006 Summer Youth Camps



**June 5-28**

**Hinds Community College  
Raymond, Miss.**

- Affordable
- High Quality Camp for your Youth Group
- Program fees, meals, t-shirt and accommodations total just **\$165** per camper
- Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis.

Information regarding individual programs/schedules may be obtained by phoning Youth Ministry at 601-292-3286.

**Camp Pastors & Worship Leaders  
June 5-9**

Gary Permenter, Kevin Williams  
**June 12-16**

Jon Daniels, Will Reedy  
**June 16-20**

Clay Stegall, Will Reedy  
**June 20-24**

Ken Hester, Tom Edwards  
**June 24-28**

Kevin Cooper, Tom Edwards